DYER’S WINNING REACTION: TEARS AND PRAYER »
NEWSOM: NO LARGE GATHERINGS DUE TO CORONAVIRUS »
TRAVEL BANS, MARKET CHAOS: REACTION TO VIRUS SPREAD »
Jerry Dyer said he was humbled upon learning Wednesday that he clinched the Fresno mayoral race. “When I found out the news today, I was in tears. The first thing I did do was fall on my knees and thank God for allowing me to become mayor of this city,” Dyer told the media at a news conference at City Hall. After the latest round of election results was released earlier in the day, there were not enough votes remaining to reduce Dyer’s 51.8% share below the majority threshold needed to avoid a November runoff. Second-place finisher Andrew Janz, with 39.9%, conceded the race in a call to Dyer and later on Twitter.

Homelessness Remains Top Priority
Mayor-elect Dyer said his top priority remains homelessness. Adhering to what he discussed during his campaign, Dyer wants to enlarge current navigation centers — where multiple services would be at a single location. The homeless would then transition into bridge housing. "When we centralize services to those individuals, I believe we will have a much better opportunity allowing them to be productive," Dyer said. During the campaign, three city councilmembers publicly objected to Dyer’s plan to enlarge those navigation centers in the downtown area. They felt such services should be spread throughout the city.

Dyer Will Have Say in New Police Chief
Dyer said he is in discussions with current Mayor Lee Brand to select a new police chief. “I fully anticipate he’s going to initiate that process here in the next month or so. I will be part of that process. He’s asked me to be part of that process,” Dyer said. Andy Hall succeeded Dyer as chief last October. However, Hall faces a mandatory retirement in the spring of 2021. "I don’t think there is any police chief candidate in the city, let alone internally, who would take that position unless the incoming mayor is part of that decision-making process," Dyer said.

Eight Month Transition
Dyer, who won’t take office until next January, said he will spend the time reviewing each department’s needs. That includes bringing in an outside consultant ahead of time to determine best business practices. Dyer said it will be paid for privately. He will also reach out to all city council members, including Miguel Arias who campaigned against Dyer. Dyer’s goal to reach out to council is to “unite this city and be able to do the things quite frankly the citizens of Fresno deserve. They do not deserve a divided relationship between the mayor and the council.” Asked if he would retain the current City Hall administration, including City Manager Wilma Quan, Dyer said those decisions would be made at a later date. "I want to build a team that has a can-do attitude, a team that is looking to gravitate toward yes," Dyer said...
Joie Ramirez’s Next Fight Could Be Last Dance for Champ in Fresno

One of the San Joaquin Valley’s greatest athletes will be fighting in front of a hometown crowd one last time. Boxing champion Joie Ramirez announced his sixth and perhaps last fight at the Save Mart Center in Fresno. The WBC/WBO World Super Lightweight champ will take on Viktor Postol on May 9, live on ESPN. “It’s going to be very hard to get him back here. I was lucky to strike a deal to get him back this time,” Ramirez’s manager and promoter Richard Mirigian said.

It’s bittersweet for Ramirez, the Avenal native, former Olympian and rapidly rising star in the world of boxing. “I’m very sad about it, because I know this fight means a lot to the people,” Ramirez said. “For now, I’m very happy that I get to give Fresno one more fight.” The bout was scheduled to take place last month in China, but postponed because of the coronavirus.

Hometown Success
Ramirez’s 25-0 record means he is undefeated both at home and the road. In addition to his five Save Mart Center bouts, Ramirez fought three times at Selland Arena in Fresno, and twice in Lemoore. The hometown crowd motivates Ramirez. “Anytime I fight in Fresno, anytime I walk out of that tunnel into the ring, I’ve never seen nothing like it,” Ramirez said. “The atmosphere, the noise (fans) make, the excitement they show ... it definitely gives me a lot of energy and it takes the butterflies out of my stomach before I ever get to the ring.”

Ramirez takes up a cause with each bout, which is promoted nearly as hard as the fight itself. In the past, Ramirez fought for water and immigrant rights. On May 9, Ramirez is...

CLOVIS READIES PLAN TO CHARGE BUILDERS MORE FOR NEW WATER SUPPLY

March 10, 2020 | David Taub

Home and commercial developers looking to build in Clovis will pay more for water under a plan adopted by city council members Monday. The new charge will help defray $35 million in costs the city will incur to secure additional water supplies from the Fresno Irrigation District, needed to support Clovis’s future growth.

Water Deal Made Last Year
Last year, the Clovis City Council entered into a long-term contract to increase its municipal water supply. Now, the city has a plan to pay for it. The council voted unanimously to allow a new fee to be charged to developers for future projects. How much to charge and which projects will be required to pay the fee is set to be finalized on March 16. As part of the $35 million water deal, FID will provide up to 7,000 acre feet of water annually for 25 years. One acre foot of water is about 326,000 gallons. An average household uses a half to one acre-foot of water a year. The city will directly fund $5 million of the cost — due in...

CORNARVIUS WON’T STOP FREE SCHOOL MEALS — EVEN IF SCHOOLS HAVE TO CLOSE

March 11, 2020 | Nancy Price

California school kids will still get free meals if their schools are forced to close to halt the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, thanks to a special waiver program announced Tuesday by the California Department of Education. This week, Parlier Unified School District announced the temporary closure of two schools over coronavirus concerns. A growing number of other public and private schools across California have also done so, some indefinitely.

Concern Over Student Access to School Meals
One of the major concerns for school officials in low-income areas is whether students who get free breakfasts, lunches, and snacks at school would have to go hungry if schools close. But the California Education Department has received a special waiver, CA COVID19, from the U.S. Department of Education to fund the meals through the Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option programs. The federally funded, state-administered programs serve free meals to students age...
There are more than 175 confirmed coronavirus cases in California and four virus-related deaths, including the first one in Los Angeles County on Wednesday. Officials in Sacramento County are taking steps to protect residents of an assisted living facility after a resident in her 90s died on Tuesday.

Newsom said eliminating larger gatherings “will cause real stress — especially for families and businesses least equipped financially to deal with them.” He said the state is working with businesses “who will feel the economic shock of these changes.” Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said restricting large gatherings will be a headache and a potential financial hit for the city and the state, but it’s the right thing to do to stem the spread of the virus.

Garcetti also said he’s hopeful the city eventually will be able to offer drive-through testing and that doctors will be able to offer treatment via the internet and phone.

Related Story: Walters: We Are Nation’s Ground Zero for Coronavirus
COACHELLA FESTIVAL POSTPONED AS CONCERTS GRAPPLE WITH VIRUS

March 11, 2020 | AP News

California’s uber-popular Coachella music festival has been postponed from its usual two-weekend-run in April to October due to concerns about the growing coronavirus. The festival’s producer Goldenvoice made the announcement Tuesday, also confirming that Stagecoach, a country music festival, will also be postponed.

Coachella, held in Southern California, will now take place on Oct. 9-11 and Oct. 16-18, while Stagecoach will take place Oct. 23-25. “At the direction of the County of Riverside and local health authorities, we must sadly confirm the rescheduling of Coachella and Stagecoach due to COVID-19 concerns. While this decision comes at a time of universal uncertainty, we take the safety and health of our guests, staff and community very seriously. We urge everyone to follow the guidelines and protocols put forth by public health officials,” Goldenvoice said in a statement.

The company said all passes for original dates will be honored for the rescheduled shows, and customers will be notified by Friday on how to obtain a refund if they cannot attend. Rage Against the Machine, Travis Scott and Frank Ocean were originally announced as headliners of Coachella; Goldenvoice didn’t say if the performance lineup would...

LATE-WINTER SYSTEMS TO BRING RAIN, SNOW TO CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

March 12, 2020 | AP News

A low-pressure system moving inland through Southern California on Thursday was expected to draw subtropical moisture northwestward, bringing showers and a chance of thunderstorms, the National Weather Service said. With heavy rain possible in some spots, flash flood watches were to go into effect at noon for a vast swath of interior valleys, mountains and desert. Some high elevation mountains could get “substantial” snow by Friday, forecasters said. The next weather system is expected to begin bringing rain to Central and Northern California during the weekend and snow in higher elevations.

Moderate Drought Covers Most of the Central Valley and the Sierra Nevada

With spring just a week away, California is way below normal winter rain and snowfall levels. The U.S. Drought Monitor report issued Thursday shows more than 48% of California now in moderate drought and another 30% characterized...
ROME — Sweeping travel bans accelerated around the globe Thursday, walling regions apart, keeping people inside their homes, and slowing the engines of commerce to try to slow the unfolding coronavirus pandemic. In the U.S., stocks dropped so fast that trading halted for the second time this week. President Donald Trump, who had downplayed the virus for weeks, delivered a somber Oval Office address announcing strict rules on travel from much of Europe after accusing governments there of failing to respond quickly to the threat. The State Department followed with an extraordinary warning to Americans to “reconsider travel abroad” as well.

The European Union quickly slammed Trump’s “unilateral” decision, declaring the virus a “global crisis, not limited to any continent and it requires cooperation rather than unilateral action.” The virus detected three months ago in China has produced crippling outbreaks in Asia, Europe and the Middle East, ignited global financial panic and in the last week has seen dizzying developments that are erupting by the hour. Those include an official designation of “pandemic” from the World Health Organization, a dramatic halt to much travel between the United States and 26 European countries, and infections being announced in rapid-fire pace by Hollywood celebrities, sports stars and political leaders as well as ordinary people on cruise ships. In Italy’s Lombardy region, the virus’ hospitals were overwhelmed with both the sick and the dead.

“It’s similar to what you might think of as an infectious disease equivalent of a major earthquake that’s going to shake us for weeks and weeks,” said Dr. Jeff Duchin, a top public health official for the Seattle area, which has one of the biggest U.S. coronavirus outbreaks.

European countries, and infections being announced in rapid-fire pace by Hollywood celebrities, sports stars and political leaders as well as ordinary people on cruise ships. In Italy’s Lombardy region, the virus’ hospitals were overwhelmed with both the sick and the dead.

“It’s similar to what you might think of as an infectious disease equivalent of a major earthquake that’s going to shake us for weeks and weeks,” said Dr. Jeff Duchin, a top public health official for the Seattle area, which has one of the biggest U.S. coronavirus outbreaks.

European countries, and infections being announced in rapid-fire pace by Hollywood celebrities, sports stars and political leaders as well as ordinary people on cruise ships. In Italy’s Lombardy region, the virus’ hospitals were overwhelmed with both the sick and the dead.

“It’s similar to what you might think of as an infectious disease equivalent of a major earthquake that’s going to shake us for weeks and weeks,” said Dr. Jeff Duchin, a top public health official for the Seattle area, which has one of the biggest U.S. coronavirus outbreaks.

Even Remote Mount Everest Closed for Business

More than 4,700 people have died worldwide. In California, the governor advised officials to cancel any gatherings of more than 250 people, as well as any smaller meetings where people must be closer than 6 feet (2 meters) — a description that includes everything from dinner parties to political rallies. Congress shut the U.S. Capitol and House and Senate office buildings to the public until April 1, and the White House canceled tours.

Related Story: Newsom: No Large Gatherings Due to Coronavirus

In Italy, new restrictions closed restaurants, cafes and retail shops Thursday after the prime minister imposed a nationwide lockdown on personal movement earlier in the week. Grocery stores, pharmacies and outdoor markets were allowed to operate, as were newspaper stands. Rosanna Farina, whose family has run a newspaper kiosk in Rome’s historic center since the 19th century, was torn on whether it was worth staying open.

“If we avoid each other and listen to the scientists, maybe in a few weeks it will be better,” — Koloud “Kay” Tarapolsi of Redmond, Washington

March 12, 2020 | AP News

TRAVEL BANS, MARKET CHAOS: REACTION TO VIRUS SPREAD

“It’s similar to what you might think of as an infectious disease equivalent of a major earthquake that’s going to shake us for weeks and weeks.” — Dr. Jeff Duchin a top public health official for the Seattle area, which has one of the biggest U.S. coronavirus outbreaks

“If we avoid each other and listen to the scientists, maybe in a few weeks it will be better.” — Koloud “Kay” Tarapolsi of Redmond, Washington

Related Story: Newsom: No Large Gatherings Due to Coronavirus

In Italy, new restrictions closed restaurants, cafes and retail shops Thursday after the prime minister imposed a nationwide lockdown on personal movement earlier in the week. Grocery stores, pharmacies and outdoor markets were allowed to operate, as were newspaper stands. Rosanna Farina, whose family has run a newspaper kiosk in Rome’s historic center since the 19th century, was torn on whether it was worth staying open. “So few people are out and about. People are terrorized,” she said, wearing a scarf around her face. “I’d...
BERNIE SANDERS SAYS HE’S MOVING AHEAD WITH HIS DEM CAMPAIGN

BERNIE SANDERS SAYS HE’S MOVING AHEAD WITH HIS DEM CAMPAIGN

---

**BERNIE SANDERS SAYS HE’S MOVING AHEAD WITH HIS DEM CAMPAIGN**

BURLINGTON, Vt. — While acknowledging his deficit in the Democratic race, Bernie Sanders said Wednesday he’s pressing ahead with his presidential campaign at least long enough to debate Joe Biden this weekend and try to force him to answer questions about economic inequality and the country’s fraying social safety net.

The Vermont senator offered no further details on what his campaign may look like before or after he and Biden — the last two major candidates left in the Democratic presidential nomination — spar Sunday night on stage in Arizona.

And that will continue to raise questions — as unlikely as it may seem less than two weeks after losing his front-runner status — about how long Sanders will persist against increas-

ingly daunting odds.

Sanders addressed reporters after offering no public state-

ments Tuesday night, when he suffered a devastating pri-

mary defeat in Michigan and losses in Missouri, Idaho and Mississippi at the hands of Biden. Sanders noted that he won North Dakota and the continuing count in Washington state remained close. But he admitted he was trailing badly...

---

**WILL WARM WEATHER STOP THE SPREAD OF NEW VIRUS? NO ONE REALLY KNOWS**

JAKARTA, Indonesia — As outbreaks of the new coronavirus that first emerged in China continue to spread in more than 100 countries — particularly those experiencing winter — one of the biggest unanswered questions is how it will behave in warmer weather.

Like influenza, the new disease is a respiratory infection be-

longing to a family of viruses that typically survive longer in colder environments. Most people experience only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough, but older adults and people with existing health problems may have more severe illnesses, including pneumonia.

The virus has reached every continent except Antarctica but has yet to cause major outbreaks in the Southern Hemi-

sphere. Some key questions on how the virus might behave once the temperature rises: No one knows. The new...

---

**US HEART SURGEON TREATS CHILDREN LACKING CARE IN LIBYA’S WAR**

TRIPOLI, Libya — Yazan, a 1-year-old Libyan boy, was born with congenital heart disease. With just one chamber, the organ pumped so little blood that when Yazan cried, his skin turned black. Without surgery, he would not survive. But Yazan’s country, Libya, has only one heart surgeon who can’t possibly perform surgeries on 1,200 or so infants born every year with heart defects.

Of those, typically some 150 are in dire need of surgery and die in their first year, said William Novick, an American pediatric cardiac surgeon. His international team of experts, part of the Novick Cardiac Alliance, regularly flies into Libya to perform surgery on patients like Yazan. "To me this is simply an unacceptable situation that needs our attention," said Novick, who lives in Memphis, Tennessee. The medical trips help prop up Libya’s fragile health care system, which the World Health Organization has described as overburdened...
LONDON — It’s definitely a farewell. But will it be fond? Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, fulfilled their final royal commitment when they appeared Monday at the annual Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey in London. It’s the last time they will be seen at work with the entire royal Windsor clan before they fly off into self-imposed exile in North America.

The service marks the end of a two-month drama that began when the couple announced plans to walk away from their roles as senior members of Britain’s royal family and into a world where they will have to earn a living, pay their own way and even open some doors for themselves. It’s uncharted territory for the House of Windsor, even as the family seeks to downsize. “I think this is a blow because I don’t think (the Windsors) would have envisaged that the slimmed-down monarchy would have actually meant that there was no role for Meghan and Harry. I mean, they really brought a new dimension to the royal family brand,” said Pauline Maclaran, co-author of “Royal Fever: The British Monarchy in Consumer Culture.”

It wasn’t supposed to happen this way. Less than two years ago, Harry and Meghan were seen as a golden couple that would help extend the royal family’s appeal to a new generation. Their wedding on May 19, 2018, united a grandson of 93-year-old Queen Elizabeth II with the former Meghan Markle, a bi-racial American actress who had starred for seven years on the U.S. television series “Suits.” George Clooney, Serena Williams and Elton John attended their wedding at Windsor Castle, which ended with the royal couple kissing for their flag-waving fans and riding through the streets in a horse-drawn carriage. But the horses were barely back at the stable before pressures intensified on the couple, who became the Duke and Duchess of Sussex on their wedding day.

The Prince Was Stung by Media Reports of a Split Between Him and His Older Brother

Even before the ceremony, Britain’s tabloid newspapers featured stories about a rift between Meghan and her father. When Meghan became pregnant, some commentators criticized her for jetting off to New York for a baby shower, a strange American tradition to many in Britain. Others lampooned Meghan’s politically correct pronouncements on the environment and women’s rights. Meghan’s supporters saw racism at work. Harry publicly defended his wife and directed his anger at the intrusive media he has resented all his life because of the paparazzi’s role in chasing his mother, Princess Diana, on the night in 1997 when she died in a Paris car accident.

The prince himself was stung by media reports of a split between him and his older brother, Prince William. The notion that the brothers and their glamorous wives would be a royal “Fab Four” for the 21st century began to fade. “For me, and for my wife, of course there’s a lot of stuff that hurts, especially when the majority of it is untrue,” Prince Harry told ITV News last fall. “I will not be bullied into playing a game that killed my mum.”

Related Story: Questions of Racism Linger as Harry, Meghan Step Back

March 2, 2020 | AP News

“I think this is a blow because I don’t think (the Windsors) would have envisaged that the slimmed-down monarchy would have actually meant that there was no role for Meghan and Harry. I mean, they really brought a new dimension to the royal family brand.”

— Pauline Maclaran, co-author of “Royal Fever: The British Monarchy in Consumer Culture”
PUTIN BACKS TERM LIMIT FREEZE ALLOWING HIM TO STAY IN OFFICE

March 10, 2020 | AP News

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin revealed his tightly guarded political plans Tuesday and supported a constitutional amendment that would allow him to seek reelection in 2024 by restarting the term count. The constitutional change would pave the way for the 67-year-old Putin to stay in office until 2036, if he desires.

A lawmaker who is revered in Russia as the first woman to fly in space proposed either scrapping Russia’s two-term limit for presidents or stopping the clock so the law wouldn’t apply to Putin’s time in office. The Russian leader and the lower house of parliament quickly endorsed the proposal put forward by 83-year-old former Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova. Kremlin critics denounced the move as cynical manipulation and called for protests.

Lawmakers also passed a set of constitutional amendments proposed by Putin that include defining marriage as a heterosexual union and language pledging homage to “ancestors who bequeathed to us their ideals and a belief in God.” In a speech to lawmakers debating the package of amendments, Putin opposed doing away with the presidential term limit but backed stopping the count and restarting it in 2024, if the Russian Constitution is revised. Putin’s second six...